



HOUSE OF LORDS

Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election

Notice to electors

Following the retirement of Lord Walpole on 13 June 2017 there is a vacancy among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords.

Under Standing Order 10, the vacancy is to be filled by a by-election. Those eligible to stand are all hereditary peers whose names are on the register of hereditary peers wishing to stand for election as members of the House of Lords, maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments. Those on this register are asked to indicate by 5 pm on Wednesday 28 June 2017 whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. The list of candidates will be published on Friday 30 June 2017.

Lord Walpole was one of the hereditary peers elected by the Crossbench hereditary peers. Therefore, under Standing Order 10(2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, of whom there are currently 31 eligible to vote. A list is in Annex 1. Electors must have taken the oath in this Parliament in order to be issued with a ballot paper.

Votes in this by-election will be cast by post. **Ballot papers will be sent to electors on Friday 30 June 2017. They will be sent to electors at the House of Lords, unless the House of Lords Journal Office is notified of an alternative address by 5 pm on Wednesday 28 June 2017.** A form for notifying the Journal Office of an alternative address is enclosed with this notice.

Ballot papers should be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office, either by post or in person, by 5 pm on Tuesday 18 July 2017. Ballot papers received after this time will not be counted.

Timetable and conduct of the by-election

Candidates will be invited, but not required, to submit statements in support of their candidature. Such statements will be circulated by the House administration to all electors. Statements must not exceed 75 words.

A hustings for the by-election is expected to be organised by the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers. The Convenor's office will contact candidates and electors with details of this event once the candidates have been confirmed.

The Code of Conduct for the by-election is in Annex 2. Electoral Reform Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

The timetable for the by-election is:

5 pm, Wednesday 28 June

Deadline for candidate registration and receipt of alternative ballot address from electors.

Friday 30 June

List of candidates and statements published; ballot papers sent to electors.

5 pm, Tuesday 18 July

Deadline for receipt of ballot papers.

Wednesday 19 July

Count and then result of the by-election reported to the House.

The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters place the figure 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate they most strongly support, the figure 2 against the next most favoured candidate, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish. In order to be elected, the successful candidate must receive at least as many votes as all the other candidates put together. In the event of this not happening after first-preference votes have been allocated, the votes of the candidates receiving the lowest number of first-preference votes will be shared out according to the second preference marked on them. This will be repeated until one candidate has at least half of the total valid votes.

Ballot papers will be invalidated if:

- any number is used more than once, or
- in the opinion of the Returning Officer (the Clerk of the Parliaments) the ballot paper is illegible or ambiguous.

The count will be conducted by Electoral Reform Services.

The result will be announced in the House of Lords chamber by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a convenient moment (likely to be after oral questions) on Wednesday 19 July 2017.

The full results, including the number of first-preference votes cast for each candidate and the position after each transfer of votes, will be available in the Printed Paper Office and the Library soon after the announcement by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The results will also be published online at www.parliament.uk

Change of address for ballot paper

Please find enclosed a form for notifying the Journal Office if you wish your ballot paper to be sent to an address other than the House of Lords.

Enquiries

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By post: The Registry, Journal Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW
- By telephone: 0207 219 5307
- By email: holjournaloffice@parliament.uk

14 June 2017

ED OLLARD
Clerk of the Parliaments

Annex I: Excepted Crossbench hereditary peers as at 14 June 2017

Elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers

Aberdare, L.	Mountevans, L.
Baldwin of Bewdley, E.	Northbourne, L.
Brookeborough, V.	Palmer, L.
Clancarty, E.	Peel, E.
Cork and Orrery, E.	Rosslyn, E.
Craigavon, V.	Russell of Liverpool, L.
Cromwell, L.	St John of Bletso, L.
Erroll, E.	Sandwich, E.
Freyberg, L.	Slim, V.
Greenway, L.	Somerset, D.
Hylton, L.	Stair, E.
Kinnoull, E.	Thurlow, L.
Listowel, E.	Trevethin and Oaksey, L.
Lytton, E.	Waverley, V.

Elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers

Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Mar, C.

Annex 2: Code of Conduct

1. Ballot papers will not indicate any qualification or reason why a candidate should be elected.
2. Candidates may not offer hospitality, entertainment or financial inducements to electors intended to influence their votes or likely to have that effect.
3. Candidates may not engage in any activity intended or likely to discredit other candidates in the by-election.
4. Candidates may not solicit votes near the room where the by-election is taking place.
5. If the Clerk of the Parliaments suspects, on reasonable grounds, that some material irregularity or improper conduct may have occurred in the electoral process, he may refer the matter to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct. The committee may, if it thinks fit, recommend the disqualification of a successful candidate if their election appears to have been influenced by material irregularity or improper conduct.
6. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.